



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,771	07/17/2003	John Louis Janning	J5460.0009/P009-A	9160
24998	7590	03/03/2006	EXAMINER	
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP 2101 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037			LEE, GUIYOUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2875	

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/620,771	JANNING, JOHN LOUIS <i>(JL)</i>	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim./Amdt.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Response filed 01/04/2006.
2. Receipt is acknowledged of the Terminal disclaimer filed 01/04/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris (US 5,453,664) in view of Wu (US 5,345,147).
5. Re claims 1: Harris discloses a series-wired light string that operates comprising a plurality of light bulbs (12 in Fig. 1), a plurality of light sockets (16), each light socket of said plurality of light sockets adapted to receive at least one light bulb (124) of said plurality of light bulbs, a plurality of voltage-responsive shunts (140 and 142), each shunt being electrically connected in parallel across a respective light socket to maintain the current passing through the light socket in the event that a light bulb is not illuminated or is missing from the light socket (col. 4, lines 24+), and a power source. Harris does not disclose a rectifier for rectifying an AC supply voltage for DC operation of the series wired light string. Wu shows a Christmas light controller circuit having a rectifier (1 in Fig. 3). Further, Wu teaches that the rectifier supplies DC voltage to a plurality Christmas light string (col. 4, lines 3-7). It would have been obvious to

one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ Wu's rectifier into Harris' series-wired light string in order to provide DC voltage.

6. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris and Wu as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ray (US 4,211,955).

7. Re claims 2-3: Wu does not teach that the rectifier is a single diode, which operates as a half-wave rectifier or a bridge rectifier for full wave rectification. The single diode rectifier or a bridge rectifier was known at the time the invention was made, and Ray discloses the single diode rectifier (26 in Fig. 5) and the bridge rectifier (26 in Fig. 6). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute Wu's rectifier with Ray's single diode rectifier or bridge rectifier because the single rectifier or bridge rectifier are combined with other circuits as an integrated circuit so that it is accommodated on the light string circuit.

8. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris and Wu as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Muench et al. (US 3,639,805).

9. Re claim 4: Harris does not teach the voltage responsive shunt is a single Zener diode. Muench shows a plurality of headlamp light bulbs (10 and 12) connected serially, and a plurality of voltage-responsive shunts (20 and 22) are connected in parallel across a respective light bulb. Further, Muench teaches that the voltage-responsive shunt is a single Zener diode (col. 1, line 26). Furthermore, Muench teaches that "the same type of circuit connection may be used with lamps other than headlamps (col. 2, lines 12-15)". It would have been obvious to one having

Art Unit: 2875

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute Harris's voltage-responsive shunt with Muench's single Zener diode because of Muench's teachings above.

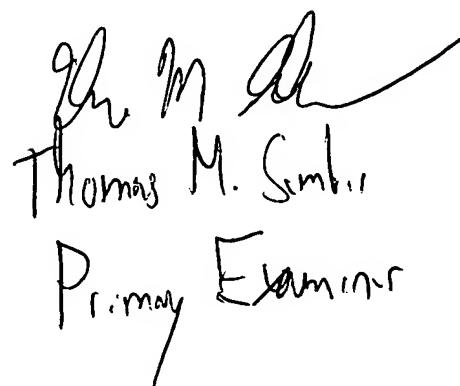
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guiyoung Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2374. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LGY


Thomas M. Sembler
Primary Examiner